Government of India is concerned there is no other measures being undertaken in the Gujarat for orphaned children.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Incidents of Land Subsidence in Coal Fields

3029. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether incident of land subsidence is taking place in several coal fields;

(b) if so, the details of such cases that have come to the notice of Government during the preceding three years;

(c) the estimated loss of human lives and property on account of these incidents; and

(d) the details of steps taken/contemplated to provide proper safety to the people working and living around the coal mining belts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The problem of unplanned subsidence is mainly confined to Raniganj and Jharia coalfields of West Bengal and Bihar respectively.

There have been 25 incidents of subsidence in the above areas during the last three years *i.e.* 1994-95 and 1996, Year-wise and company-wise break-up of incidents of subsidence are given as under:-

Year	ECL	BCCL
1994	8	1
1995	4	6
1996	4	2
Total	16	9

(c) The incidents of subsidence did not result in any loss of life. However, there had been some damage to the property as per details given below:—

Eastern Coalfields Limited

(i) A kutcha hutment was partially damaged in Pandaveswar area in 1994.

(ii) A small wall was damaged in Satgram Incline in 1995.

(iii) Company's sub-station was affected in Jambad OC in 1996.

(iv) 24 company's quarters were partially damaged in Naba Kajora in 1996.

Bharat Coking Coal Limited

(i) 3 unauthorised kutcha houses developed cracks at East Katras in January, 1995.

(ii) 60 company's quarters were damaged at Bagdigi Colliery in August, 1995.

(iii) 3 company's quarters were damaged at Bansdeopur Colliery in August, 1995.

(iv) 22 dwellings and 350 quarters were affected at Loyabad Colliery in February, 1995.

(v) 400 company's quarters and Agent's Office were affected at Industry Colliery in May, 1995.

(vi) 346 houses were affected at East Bhuggatdih in March, 1996.

(vii) 219 unauthorised private houses in Chouthai Kulhi area of Central Jharia at East Bhuggatdih developed cracks in October, 1996.

(d) Some of the steps taken to protect people living over the subsidence prone areas in Jharia and Raniganj coalfields are given below;

(i) Wherever feasible, action is taken to stabilise unstable underground working under the built-up area;

(ii) To establish an innovative technology of hydropenumatic sand stowing, fields trials are being carried out in 5 localities to stabilise water-logged underground working under the built-up area;

(iii) Delineation of water-logged unserveyed underground voids has been examined through a number of research and development projects;

(iv) The concerned coal companies have been publishing appeals in local newspapers informing the residents about the unstability of the underground workings below the built-up area and requesting them to vacate;

(v) Regular follow-up and liaison with the District Authorities and local MPs/MLAs is maintained for evacuation of people from areas declared unsafe;

(vi) With a view to solving the problem of subsidence and fire in Raniganj and Jharia

coalfields in a comprehensive manner, a Committee has been constituted on 19.12.1996 with Secretary (Coal) as the Chairman and representatives of Planning Commission, Ministry of Labour, Govt. of West Bengal and Bihar, Director General Mines Safety (DGMS), Coal India Limited (CIL), Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI), Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) as members. The Committee held three meetings—one in Delhi, second in Jharia Coalfield and the third in Raniganj Coalfields on 6.2.1997, 7/8.3.1997 and 28/29.4.1997 respectively. The Committee is expected to submit its report by June, 1997.

Exploration of coal and lignite

3030. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of coal in 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the measures proposed to step up exploration of coal and lignite to reduce the gap between demand and supply; and

(c) the steps taken to attract substantial private investment in coal sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Demand of coal for the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 as assessed by the Planning Commission and the actual offtake of coal for these two years are as under:

(Million tonnes)

Year	Demand	Offtake
1995-96	298.80	271.06
1996-97	325.00	286.16 (Prov.)

(b) The Hon'ble Member presumably means "exploitation of coal" For augmenting coal production so as to reduce the gap between demand and supply, following steps have been taken:—

(i) Opening up of new mines and increasing efficiency and productivity in existing mines by modernisation, application of new technologies and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities.

(ii) The capital base of Coal India Limited has been restructured to enable it to raise from the capital market additional financial resources which are required to add to new coal production capacity.

(iii) Co-ordination on continuous basis with the Railways is maintained to remove transportation bottlenecks in such coalfields areas which have potential for enchanced production.

(iv) Modification of existing washeries as well as construction of new washeries are being taken up to increase the availability of washed coking coal.

(c) Private sector companies engaged in production of iron and steel, cement and generation of power have been permitted to take up coal mining for their own use. Further the Government have, subject to legislative changes, decided to offer new coal blocks, without the restrictions on coal mining for captive consumption only as well as exploration activities to the Indian Companies including public sector companies.

कोयले के अवैध खनन की गतिविधियां

3031. **श्री राम गोपाल यादव:**
श्री ईशदत्त यादव:

क्या **कोयला** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि देश में कोयले के अवैध रूप से खनन की गतिविधियां बड़े पैमाने पर चल रही हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ये गतिविधियां कितने वर्षों से चल रही हैं और इस अवधि में अवैध रूप से कितने मूल्य के और कितनी मात्रा में कोयले का खनन किया गया;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने अवैध रूप से कोयला खनन की गतिविधियों पर पूर्ण पाबंदी लगाने हेतु कोई कदम उठाए हैं और ऐसी गतिविधियों में लिप्त व्यक्तियों के खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही की है; और

(घ) की गई कार्यवाही का ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं तथा इस संबंध में सरकार ने क्या प्रस्ताव किया है?

कोयले मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कांति सिंह): (क) ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि० (ई०को०लि०) भारत कोकिंग कोलफील्ड्स लि० (भा०को०को०लि०) तथा सेंट्रल कोलफील्ड्स लि० की कुछ खानों में अवैध रूप से कोयले के उत्खनन की छुटपुट घटनाएं हो रही हैं।